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CLARKSBURG, W. VA., JAN. 8, 1904.

Guard Health of Community.

Following suggestions that the city should have rules and regulations to govern the crematory, it is pertinent to consider the sanitary conditions of the city and especially along the line of the office of the one who looks after the health of the city, or in other words what should be the status of the health officer, his powers and duties.

For many years that office has not been what a collection of people demands. A community can not be served successfully and satisfactorily by the plan that has been in vogue here. The health officer has not been clothed with any general authority, or specific for that matter, which warranted him in subservient the city's highest interests. First of all that officer has never been paid sufficient salary to justify more than casual attention to the business of his office. A mere pittance has been meted out to him and he has never been required to comply strictly to the letter of ever what law there is on the subject. Any old thing along the line of what ought to be his duties has been quite satisfactory except in a few special incidents, when he has been roundly abused by the city law makers because he did not do it their way.

There are good reasons for this state of affairs. One of the most striking is that the pay that attaches to the office is such a pittance that no man can afford to render faithful service unless he wants to be a pauper and be buried in the Potter's field. There ought to be required of him a great amount of work and to a certain extent it is expected, but when pay day comes they give him a miserly sum and the laugh. Usually the amount of work done, and of right ought to be according to the pay received. Little pay, little work.

Clarksburg has grown to that magnitude and importance which warrant the entire time of a health officer and the city should so provide. Such an officer should not be engaged in any other business and he cannot be, if he does what the situation demands of him. It is just important that the sanitation of the city should be cautiously looked after as it is that the fire department or the water works or some other branch of the city government should be attended to. No sane man, especially no clean man, will deny this. And, if a health officer is to give his attention exclusively to the city is it but right that he should be paid an amount to justify that.

The law may provide that such an officer shall be a physician, or it may not, but, if it does say that he must be a physician, then it is time that it should be changed. There is no logical reason why that officer should be a physician, and the fact of the matter is it would be better, if he were not, for the reason that there is a certain amount of ethics in the medical fraternity that embarrasses and hampers the city health officer in the discharge of his duties. This would not exist if the health officer were other than a physician. But be doctor or not, he should be clothed with authority and other physicians should be made to comply with his orders in cases of contagious diseases and report to him all such cases. He should have absolute power in such instances, with the possible exception that he should be subject to city council. It should not be left to the mayor to act. That officer should not assume the duties or powers of the health officer in any way. To the contrary the health officer should be above the mayor, in all such instances. In fact he should be supreme.

The city will feel safe and will be well served, when this authority is conferred

upon the health officer for the reason that it will be known that only a competent man will be selected, and to make that confidence secure there should be laws on the subject that will insure only the best and most reliable in that office. When such laws are put in the city code and the salary is fixed at a figure that will justify a reputable man to devote his entire time and attention to the duties of the office, there will be competent men willing to accept the trust and they will do their duty.

It is time that the city solons should consider this feature of the city government with soberness of thought and then act along lines herein suggested.

A GENTLEMAN OF FRANCE

WILL BE THE ATTRACTION AT THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 15.

Frank L. Perley Will Present Mr. Charles Dalton, the Eminent Actor, in a Dramatization of Stanley Weyman's Novel.

Keenly alive to the fact that the public at large are taking greater interest in things theatrical and, moreover, discriminate as to what sort of attractions they will patronize, so Mr. Frank L. Perley intends to give them what they want. With this aim in view, he has secured the services of Mr. Charles Dalton, an actor of unqualified merit, whose success in the role of Marcus Superbus in "The Sign of the Cross," is a matter of universal knowledge, to star in his huge dramatic success, "A Gentleman of France." As "Gaston De Marac," Mr. Dalton finds himself fitted with a congenial part which gives him ample opportunities to demonstrate that as a romantic actor he has few, if any, equals.

In sword and gauntlet, he is the ideal "swash buckler," the hero of courtly and the dueling field, strong and agile, yet with that captivating voice and smile that fits so well with his handsome face, he irresistibly carries his audience to heights of unthought of enthusiasm. The love interest enters largely into the construction of the play, and lending it with deft lights and shades into the thrilling situations of "the fight in the stair-case" makes "A Gentleman of France" a play that will long be remembered.

The time of the play is that golden age of romance and poetry in France which has furnished so many nappy romances to poet and novelist. The locale admits of excellent exposition of the comic artist's craft, full advantage of which has been taken by Mr. Perley. The audience has been allowed full play, and as a result, the production is unquestionably the best Mr. Perley has done throughout his long and successful career as a manager. Needless to say, the company surrounding Mr. Dalton are seasoned veterans, whose good work has been a matter of favorable comment in the biggest dramatic successes of the last five years. Mr. Dalton and his supporting company in "A Gentleman of France" will be the attraction at the grand opera house on Friday, January 15.

THEODORE KREMER'S "FOR HER CHILDREN'S SAKE."

Already the interest manifested broadcast among our best theater-going people over the advance notice of Theodore Kremer's strong melo-dramatic appeal, "For Her Children's Sake," to be seen at the Grand opera house next week, has been sufficient to predict one of the biggest innovations ever seen at this local theater. The author has followed up his successful "The Fatal Wedding" with his brand new hit, and fairly bids to undo its predecessor from every standpoint have their public satisfied, and either expense or pains have been spared. This has been no difficult task, but Managers Sullivan, Harris and Wood, who admit of no obstacle to gain a point, d. Carefully mounted by skilled experts and staged under the personal direction of the author, the outcome is assured to be the most complete organization touring this season. The source from which the play takes its title is held in reserve, and something of interest is left to the imagination. The story is too intricate and involved with plot and counterplot to admit of description, and any attempt would be doing Mr. Kremer an injustice. The play must be seen to be appreciated.

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STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF TRADERS NATIONAL BANK

Clarksburg, W. Va., Dec. 11. The regular annual meeting of the shareholders of the Traders National Bank of Clarksburg will be held at the banking house of said bank on Tuesday, Jan. 12 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year and to vote upon a resolution to amend article three of the articles of association of said bank, as follows: "The board of directors of said bank shall consist of not more than twelve nor less than five shareholders." T. M. JACKSON, Pres't. dec12-1m

Sweet Melody Flour.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF CENTRAL DEV. CO.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the Central Dev. Co. will be held at the principal office of the company, 307 North Fourth street, January 16, 1904, for the purpose of transacting such business as may be brought before them. F. C. DEVERICKS, President. jan2-dtd

Sweet Melody Flour

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

The board of education of the Independent school district of the city of Grafton, W. Va., will receive bids until Tuesday, January 26, 1904, for the erection of two school buildings. One building of twelve rooms and another of six rooms. Both structures to be of brick and stone. Bids will be received for the building complete, from the foundation up, or for the excavation and foundation, and building separate and apart from the excavation and foundation. Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the president of the board of education in Grafton, and for the 12-room building at the offices of Holmboe & Lafferty, in Clarksburg, W. Va. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. Address James W. Holt, president of the board of education, Grafton, W. Va. jan2-eod-7t

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BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD.

West Bound.
No. 1—(daily) due 12:53 a. m.
No. 71—(daily) due 7:26 a. m.
No. 3—(daily) due 10:13 a. m.
No. 47—(daily) due 3:42 p. m.
No. 55—(daily) due 7:28 p. m.
East Bound.
No. 2—(daily) due 3:54 a. m.
No. 46—(daily) due 10:13 a. m.
No. 12—(daily) due 5:32 p. m.
No. 72—(daily) due 6:58 p. m.
No. 4—(daily) due 9:45 p. m.
W. VA. & PITTS. DIVISION.
West Bound.
No. 3—(daily ex. Sunday) Ar. 6:15 a. m.; Lv. 6:15 a. m.
No. 1—(daily) Ar. 9:30 a. m.; Lv. 10:30 a. m.
No. 5—(daily ex. Sun.) Ar. 2:15 p. m.; Lv. 3:55 p. m.
No. 7—(daily ex. Sun.) Ar. 6:45 p. m.
No. 9—(Sunday only) Ar. 7:20 p. m.; Lv. 7:20 p. m.
East Bound.
No. 8—(Daily ex. Sun.) Lv. 6:40 a. m.
No. 2—(Daily ex. Sun.) Ar. 8:50 a. m.; Lv. 10:35 p. m.
No. 66—(Sunday only) Ar. and Lv. 9:40 a. m.
No. 6—(daily) Ar. 3:33 p. m.; Lv. 4 p. m.
No. 4—(daily ex. Sun.)—Ar. and Lv. 11:30 p. m.
WEST VIRGINIA SHORT LINE.
West Bound.
No. 717—(daily ex. Sun.) Ar. 11:50 a. m.
No. 719—(daily) Ar. 8:15 p. m.
East Bound.
No. 718—(daily) Lv. 6:20 a. m.
No. 720—(daily ex. Sun.) Lv. 2:30 p. m.
Trains Nos. 7 and 8 run between Clarksburg and Sutton.
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JANUARY 1, 1904

I desire to thank the people of Clarksburg and vicinity and especially those whose patronage has made the year 1903 the most prosperous during my stay, and wish that the New Year may bring to them happiness and prosperity which will surely come by continuing to See Dodge during 1904.

Yours, with expectations,
J. W. DODGE.

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